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**LEXDEN AND WINSTREE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Medical Officer of Health, 1952



COLCHESTER :
ESSEX TELEGRAPH PRESS LTD.
38 HEAD STREET

Lexden and Winstree Rural District Council

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mrs. F. M. BROWNING	Mr. P. McLACHAN
Mrs. D. COCK	Mr. F. G. PARKER
Rev. H. J. COKER	Mr. H. C. PERCIVAL
Mr. C. COTTEE	Mrs. F. E. POLLEY
Mrs. B. E. DICK-CUNYNGHAM	Lt. Col. A. A. SOAMES
Mr. A. W. GARRETT	Mr. R. C. WAGSTAFF

Medical Officer of Health

W. H. ALDERTON, M.C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector	..	..	A. HURD, F.R.San.I.
Senior Assistant Inspector	..	..	K. H. WHARTON, Cert. R.San.I.
Assistant Inspector	..	..	H. L. AMES, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I.
Additional Inspector	..	..	F. G. LAMBERT, Cert. R.San.I.
Junior Assistant	R. F. ELLISTON
Two Whole-time Clerks	O. S. DALTON and Miss J. TUCKER

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*Rebow Chambers,
Sir Isaac's Walk,
Colchester.
10th June, 1953.*

**To the Chairman and Members of the Lexden and Winstree
Rural District Council**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the District for the year 1952.

The report is compiled as formerly in accordance with instructions received from the Ministry of Health.

This year there has been a considerable reduction in the number of deaths, which results in a more favourable death rate than last year, when the number of deaths exceeded the number of births.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking members of the Public Health Committee for their support during the year and to place on record my appreciation of the co-operation and loyalty of my staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. ALDERTON.

Lexden and Winstree Rural District Council

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	66,152
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population							..	22,540
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1952) according to rate books	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,400
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£146,529
Sum represented by a penny rate							..	£605

Social Conditions

The main occupation of the population is agriculture. A proportion, however, is engaged in, amongst other occupations, engineering, building, printing and milling.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	.. 282	149	133	Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population—13·3.
	{ Illegitimate	.. 20	11	9	
Still Births	{ Legitimate	.. 6	4	2	Rate per 1,000 total births—19·4.
	{ Illegitimate	.. —	—	—	
Deaths	.. ..	.. 260	140	120	Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population—11·5.
Comparability figure—76.				Corrected death rate—8·7.	

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total births
Puerperal sepsis	—	—
Other puerperal causes ..	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age (6 deaths) :

All infants per 1,000 live births	19·4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births	19·8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births ..	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	47
„ Measles (all ages)	—
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	—

Deaths in the Various Age Groups (local statistics) :

Age	No. of Deaths
0— 1 year	6
1— 2 years	2
2— 5 years	0
5—15 years	1
15—25 years	1
25—35 years	4
35—45 years	5
45—55 years	14
55—65 years	25
65—75 years	74
75—85 years	79
85 years and upwards	49
	<hr/> 260 <hr/>

The following table shows the approximate state of immunisation against diphtheria at December 31st, 1952.

Population 0-4 inclusive	Number Immunised	Percentage
1845	857	46
Population 5-14 inclusive		
3069	2999	96

National Assistance Acts, 1948-51 :

One old lady was removed to hospital under the above Acts.

In addition to living in insanitary conditions, without care and attention, she had injury to her femur and was suffering from senile dementia. She eventually died in hospital.

Causes of Death							M.	F.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	..	..					1	2
Cancer .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	29	18
Syphilitic Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	1
Leukaemia	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0
Vascular Disease of nervous system	..	..					14	23
Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	33
Coronary Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	15
Other Circulatory Disease			..	..	..	..	8	5
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	4
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1
Other Disease of Respiratory System	..	..					1	0
Congenital Malformation	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	0
Other Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
Other Causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	16
							<hr/> 140	<hr/> 120

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

The Medical Officer of Health : W. H. Alderton, M.C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. He is also Medical Officer of Health to neighbouring Urban Districts and Assistant Medical Officer to the County Council.

The Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor : A. Hurd, F.R.San.I. He is also a qualified Food Inspector. He devotes his whole time to the Council.

The Senior Assistant Inspector : K. H. Wharton, Cert.R.San.I. He devotes his whole time to the service of the Council. He is also a qualified Food Inspector.

The Assistant Inspector : H. L. Ames, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I. He is employed whole time by the Council and is also a qualified Food Inspector.

The Additional Inspector : F. G. Lambert, Cert.R.San.I. He is employed whole time by the Council and is also a qualified Food Inspector.

Junior Assistant : R. F. Elliston.

Two whole-time Clerks are employed : O. S. Dalton and Miss J. Tucker.

Laboratory Facilities

There has been no change in the facilities described in the last report.

The Laboratories available are situated at :

The Essex County Hospital, Colchester.

The Public Health Laboratory, Woodbridge Road, Ipswich.

The Counties Laboratory, 66 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Ambulance

Non-emergency ambulance calls are not accepted from the general public.

To obtain an ambulance in an emergency it is merely necessary to lift the telephone receiver and ask for an ambulance. If there is a dialling system in operation dial "999," "0" or "01" and ask for an ambulance.

HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.

Midwives.

Nursing in the Home.

Health Visiting.

Mental Welfare.

Home Helps.

Vaccination and Diphtheria Immunisation.

Provision of nursing equipment and apparatus.

School Health Service.

Ante-natal and post-natal clinics are held at the Health Services Clinic, Culver Street, Colchester, at 2.30 p.m., on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Infant welfare clinics are held in the following villages :

Tiptree : First and third Fridays at The Bianca Hall, at 2 p.m.

Layer : Second Thursday at The Women's Institute, at 2 p.m.

Rowhedge : First and third Thursdays at the Pavilion, Rectory Road, at 2 p.m.

Abberton : Second Tuesday at the Village Hall, at 2 p.m.

Salcott : Fourth Tuesday at The Old School, at 2 p.m.

Messing : First and third Tuesdays at The Village Hall, at 2 p.m.

Dedham : Second and fourth Thursdays at the Hewitt Hall, at 2 p.m.

Great Horkesley : First Wednesday at the Men's Social Club at 2 p.m.

Boxted : Last Wednesday at the Social Club, at 2 p.m.

Fordham : Second Friday at the Village Hall, at 2 p.m.

Marks Tey : Third Wednesday at the Labour Hall, at 2 p.m.

Great Tey : Third Tuesday at the Village Hall, at 2 p.m.

Assistance from the Home Help Service is obtained by communicating with the Area Organiser, Area Office, Trinity Street, Colchester. Telephone Colchester 4454.

HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

Tuberculosis

The Chest Clinic is situated at 3 Shewell Road, Colchester, and is open daily.

V.D.

Sessions held at the Essex County Hospital on Mondays, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., for males and females. Fridays, 2.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. for females and children, 3.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., for males.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

Abberton and District Water Supply

This is a chlorinated supply which during the year has been satisfactory in quality and sufficient in quantity. Anxiety is felt regarding the supply as the pumping level has fallen to 40 feet below ground level.

The Council's Engineers are being consulted.

The number of samples taken for examination was :

Chemical..	..	4	Bacteriological ..	12
------------	----	---	--------------------	----

No extensions were made to this supply.

A typical analysis is appended.

Abberton Public Supply

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance—Bright with a very few mineral particles.

Turbidity—Less than 8.

Colour—Nil.

Odour—Nil.

pH—8.0.

Free Carbon Dioxide—5.

Electric Conductivity—2600.

Total solids—1640.

Chlorine present as Chloride—700.

Alkalinity as Calcium

Carbonate—845.

Hardness—Total 105.

Carbonate—105.

Non-Carbonate—0.

Nitrate Nitrogen—0.0.

Nitrite Nitrogen—Approx. 0.01.

Ammoniacal Nitrogen—0.78.

Oxygen absorbed—0.40.

Albuminoid Nitrogen—0.000.

Residual Chlorine—Absent.

Metals : Iron—0.04. Other metals—Absent.

Bacteriological Report

Plate Count Yeastrel agar 2 days 37° C. aerobically—0 per ml.

Plate Count Yeastrel agar 3 days at R.T.—0 per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37° C.—
0 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli—0 per 100 ml.

Bacteriological findings excellent.

Colne and Stour Valley Supply

This is a chlorinated supply which is also softened. Although the falling level of water has not affected the sufficiency of the supply the situation is being carefully watched. The quality of the water has been satisfactory. A sample of water taken from a private house revealed coliform bacilli, re-sampling at another house produced a highly satisfactory analysis.

The number of samples taken for examination was :

Chemical.. ..	3	Bacteriological ..	12
---------------	---	--------------------	----

The following extensions were made :

Boxted Housing Site	165 yards
Ipswich Road, Langham	520 yards
London Road, Marks Tey	140 yards

A typical analysis is appended.

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance—Very slight opalescence with a very few mineral particles.

Turbidity—Less than 3.

Colour—Filtered—Less than 10 Odour—Nil.

pH—7.3. Free Carbon Dioxide—21.

Electric Conductivity—900 Total Solids—600.

Chlorine present as Chloride—128. Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate—300.

Hardness—Total 320. Carbonate—300. Non-carbonate—20.

Nitrate Nitrogen—0.0. Nitrite Nitrogen—Absent.

Ammoniacal Nitrogen—0.21. Oxygen Absorbed—0.10.

Albuminoid Nitrogen—0.000. Residual Chlorine—Absent.

Metals : Iron—0.18. Other metals—Absent.

Bacteriological Report

Plate Count Yeastrel agar 2 days 37° C. aerobically—0 per ml.

Plate Count Yeastrel agar 3 days at room temperature—0.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37° C.—0 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli—0 per 100 ml.

Bacteriological findings very satisfactory.

East Donyland Supply

This is a chlorinated supply, limited to the built-up portion of the parish, known as Rowhedge.

The supply has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity, though one sample taken from a service tap was below standard. A check a few days later gave an excellent result.

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance—Bright with a few mineral particles.

Colour—Filtered : 8.

pH—7.5.

Electric Conductivity—900.

Chlorine present as Chloride—128.

Turbidity—Less than 8.

Odour—Nil.

Free Carbon Dioxide—12.

Total Solids—600.

Alkalinity as Calcium

Carbonate—270.

Hardness—Total 170. Carbonate—170. Non-carbonate—0.

Nitrate Nitrogen—0.0.

Nitrite Nitrogen—Less than 0.01.

Ammoniacal Nitrogen—0.51.

Oxygen Absorbed—0.05.

Albuminoid Nitrogen—0.000.

Residual Chlorine—0.17.

Metals : Iron—0.27. Other metals—Absent.

Bacteriological Results

Plate Count Yeastrel agar 2 days 37°C. aerobically—0 per ml.

Plate Count Yeastrel agar 3 days at room temperature—6.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days 37°C.—
0 per 100 ml.

Probable number of faecal coli—0 per 100 ml.

Bacteriological findings very satisfactory.

The following table shows the number of dwellinghouses and the population supplied from public mains or standpipes for each parish in Lexden and Winstree :

				<i>No. of Dwellinghouses</i>	<i>Population supplied from mains</i>
Abberton	..	..	..	72	216
Aldham	..	..	..	87	304
Bergholt, West	..	..	..	325	1186
Birch	..	..	..	182	686
Boxted	..	..	..	263	920
Chappel	..	..	..	129	450
Colne, Wakes	..	..	..	125	487
Copford	..	..	..	225	786
Dedham (by Tendring Hundred)				348	1218
Donyland, East	..	..	..	408	1428
Eight Ash Green		..	..	173	605
Fingringhoe	..	..	..	156	542
Fordham	..	..	..	147	513
Horkesley, Great		..	..	254	889
Horkesley, Little		..	..	42	146
Langham	..	..	..	141	493
Layer Breton	..	..	..	66	230
Langenhoe	..	..	..	63	220
Layer-de-la-Haye		..	..	214	749
Layer Marney	..	..	..	64	224
Mersea, East	..	..	..	77	269
Messing-cum-Inworth	..	..	..	178	632
Mount Bures	..	..	..	50	174
Peldon	..	..	..	107	374
Salcot	..	..	..	82	286
Stanway	..	..	..	492	1722
Tey, Great	..	..	..	122	426
Tey, Marks	..	..	..	284	1018
Tiptree	..	..	..	729	2551
Virley	..	..	..	15	52
Wigborough, Great		..	..	52	182
Wigborough, Little		..	..	9	31
Wormingford	..	..	..	200	699

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

1st March, 1952

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE LEXDEN AND WINSTREE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report of work carried out during the year ending 31st December, 1952.

I also attach report showing the progress made in dealing with the houses classified as Unfit under the Rural Housing Survey.

INSPECTIONS

Premises Inspected—Public Health Acts	..	..	..	416	
Housing Act, 1936	..	..	..	70	
				<hr/>	486
Work in progress and property under notice (visits thereto):					
Public Health Acts	..	..	..	3238	
Housing Act, 1936	..	..	..	2055	
				<hr/>	5293
Slaughterhouses Inspected	..	..	..	..	13
Butchers' Shops and Food Stores Inspected	..	..	..	..	293
Ice Cream Stores Inspected	..	..	..	..	18
Dairies	..	..	..	..	49
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	34
Factories and Workshops	..	..	..	..	92
Appointments and Interviews with Property Owners	..	..	..	..	786
Number of Complaints received	..	..	..	..	203
Water Samples taken for Analysis	..	..	..	..	95
Samples of Milk taken for Bacteriological Examination	..	..	..	..	15
Rat Infestations (premises visited)	..	..	..	..	1399

RESULTS OF ABOVE INSPECTIONS AND ACTION TAKEN

Informal Notices served	..	..	..	..	..	624
Statutory Notices served—						
Public Health Act, 1936	..	..	..	..	3	
Housing Act, 1936	..	..	..	..	0	
					<hr/>	3
Statutory Notices complied with—						
Public Health Act, 1936	..	..	..	..	1	
Housing Act, 1936	..	..	..	..	0	
					<hr/>	1
Houses disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	9
Number of Representations made with view to making Demolition Orders	..	..	..	..	..	11
Number of Demolition Orders made under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	..	..	..	..	..	7
Number of Houses Demolished by Owners following Demolition Orders	..	..	..	..	..	2
Number of Houses Demolished by Owners following Clearance Orders	..	..	..	..	..	3
Number of Houses Demolished by Owners Voluntarily	..	..	..	..	..	1
Number of Closing Orders made under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936	..	..	..	..	..	0
Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders made under Section 3(2)(c), Housing Act, 1949	..	..	..	..	..	0
Number of Houses in respect of which Owners have undertaken not to use for human habitation—Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	..	..	..	..	..	10
Number of Houses in respect of which undertakings not to use for human habitation have been cancelled	..	..	..	..	..	8
Number of Houses erected (permanent)	..	..	..	..	..	30
Number of Houses erected (temporary)	..	..	..	..	..	0
Number of Houses rebuilt following destruction by enemy action	..	..	..	..	..	0
Closing Orders determined (Housing Act, 1949)	..	..	..	..	..	3
Number of Council Houses completed	..	..	..	..	..	69

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

Parish	No. of Cat. 5 Houses on Com- pletion of Survey	Proper- ties down graded to Cat. 5	Houses Demo- lished	Houses subject to Demo- lition Orders	Houses subject to under- takings under Sec. 11, Housing Act, 1936	Houses made Fit	Cat. 5 Proper- ties remain- ing at 31.12.52
Abberton ..	4	—	—	—	1	—	3
Aldham.. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bergholt, West	9	1	4	—	4	—	2
Birch	35	2	6	4	7	4	16
Boxted	13	2	3	4	2	5	1
Chappel.. ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Colne, Wakes ..	19	—	5	—	2	4	8
Copford	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Dedham	23	4	2	4	1	6	14
Donyland, East	55	—	45	—	—	—	10
Easthorpe ..	3	—	—	—	—	2	1
Eight Ash Green	Included with Copford and Fordham						
Fingringhoe ..	17	—	4	2	1	4	6
Fordham	10	2	1	2	1	3	5
Horkesley, Gt.	14	—	1	—	—	3	10
Horkesley, Lt.	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Langenhoe ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Langham	17	—	3	—	1	4	9
Layer Breton ..	7	—	3	—	—	—	4
Layer-de-la-Haye	16	2	4	—	2	2	10
Layer Marney ..	6	—	2	—	—	—	4
Mersea, East ..	8	—	2	—	—	—	6
Messing-cum- Inworth	17	—	—	—	3	1	13
Mount Bures ..	8	—	3	—	—	2	3
Peldon	14	—	4	—	—	3	7
Salcot	9	—	—	3	—	1	5
Stanway	24	1	—	6	—	4	15
Tey, Great ..	4	—	—	—	1	—	3
Tey, Marks ..	15	—	1	4	—	—	10
Tiptree	36	—	1	—	2	4	29
Virley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wigborough, Gt.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wigborough, Lt.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wormingford ..	12	—	5	3	—	—	4
Totals	413	14	99	32	28	52	216

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

ALBERT HURD,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING

The situation as judged by the number of families on the housing waiting list has deteriorated. The number of applicants has increased from 460 to 561. In spite of these figures I think the number of pressing cases is not as high as last year.

The number of houses completed by the end of the year shows a very slight increase. 69 were completed by the Council and 30 by private enterprise.

The number of families occupying huts on airfields has been reduced by 30, leaving 169 to be rehoused eventually.

An increasing problem presents itself in the number of old people requiring care. As a rule they live alone with their possessions and have no relatives to look to for assistance. The Home Help Department provides for their needs, but with increasing difficulty. Now is the time to provide for the future, now, whilst the housing estates are being developed here and everywhere else. This is the opportunity to provide small dwellings, preferably flats, on every housing estate for the old people.

These are best placed at the entrance to the housing sites, and in a little group. This method solves more than one problem. A single Home Help can look after several old people. The old people themselves are adjacent for each other's company. The situation at the entrance to the estates provides interest; they see everything and everyone, including the children, but at the same time they are away from the part of the estate where the children would normally play. In this way they have their interest without a surfeit of noise.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

East Stanway Sewerage Scheme was completed during the year and 235 properties were connected to the sewers.

Tiptree extended area scheme made good progress but no properties were connected to the completed sections.

No further action has been taken regarding the proposed improvements to Dedham sewerage works. It is hoped that the economic situation will ease sufficiently to permit the work to be begun.

The built-up part of the parish of East Donyland is sewered; the sewage is pumped into the Colchester Corporation sewer and treated at their disposal works.

Other sewerage plants are in operation at Birch, Wakes Colne and Wormingford Airfields and at Council Housing sites at Birch, Boxted, Fingringhoe, Peldon and West Bergholt.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The inspection of carcasses is undertaken at the Colchester Abbatoir, where animals destined for this district are slaughtered.

Regular inspection of food shops; bakeries and other places where food is prepared, etc., is undertaken by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Samples of ice cream are submitted for bacterial content, mainly in the Summer months. Results have been satisfactory.

The following foods were condemned and surrendered during the year :

Pork	..	..	..	..	121 lb.
Mutton	..	..	..	..	86 lb.
Various tins of cooked meat	..				82 lb. 2 oz.
Various tins of fruit	..	..			11 lb. 10 oz.
Soup powder	..	..	..		42 packets of 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz.
Meat and fish paste	..	..	..		62 jars of 3 oz.
Beans	..	..	..	..	1 tin.
Evaporated milk	..	..	..		10 tins of 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

The number of notifications of infectious diseases fell by more than half compared with last year.

This was due to measles, of which disease there were over 400 cases fewer. Whooping cough remained about the same, but scarlet fever was twice as prevalent, although the type of disease continued to be mild.

Of the cases of poliomyelitis, three were of moderate severity, leaving paralysis which has not yet cleared up. The cases were widely separated from one another geographically, but they had one thing in common; they had travelled about considerably during the immediate weeks preceding the onset of the disease. A table showing details is appended.

Table of Notifiable Disease

	0-1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	Over 65 yrs.	Total	Cases admit- ted to Hos- pital
Scarlet Fever	—	19	37	—	2	—	—	58	2
Whooping Cough ..	10	39	67	1	—	—	—	117	—
Measles ..	—	14	16	1	1	—	—	32	—
Pneumonia	1	2	5	1	10	12	4	35	—
Poliomyelitis	—	1	3	1	—	—	—	5	5
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	4	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	1	6	3	10	1
Sonne Dysentery	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Paratyphoid	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—
								265	

Table Showing Incidence of Tuberculosis in 1952

Age Period	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary			
			M.	F.			M.	F.
0— 1	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	—	—	3
5—15	—	2	..	..	1	—
15—25	1	3	..	..	1	1
25—45	4	2	1*	..	—	2
45—65	1	1*	1*	..	1	*1
over 65	—	1*	1*	..	—	—
			6	7	..	..	3	6

In the above tables, deaths in the various age groups are marked by *

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Inspections have been made at the various factories, and the defects observed have been dealt with.

The following table gives details of the work done :

Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health

(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections, 1 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	48	34	3
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	80	92	1
	128	126	4

Cases in which Defects were Found

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences unsuitable or defective ..	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences insufficient	2	2
	4	4

Outwork

Nature of Work	No. of Outworkers on August List
Wearing apparel, making, etc.	12
	12

